

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0001] entitled "Related Application Information" of U.S. Published Application No. 2004/0085974 with the following amended paragraph:

RELATED APPLICATION INFORMATION

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Utility application Ser. No. [[_____]] 10/612,753, filed Jul. 1, 2003, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Switching Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop Devices", which in turn claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application 60/393,164, filed Jul. 2, 2002, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Switching In a Fibre Channel Network" and U.S. Provisional Application 60/395,107, filed Jul. 10, 2002, entitled "System and Method for Multiple Trunk Connections Between Fibre Channel Switches", all of which are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Please replace paragraph [0388] of U.S. Published Application No. 2004/0085974 with the following amended paragraph:

[0388] A hub also provides a mechanism to bypass unused or malfunctioning nodes or interconnects to keep the loop operational. As shown in FIG. 3, Node 3 90 has a broken fiber 100 that would normally render the loop inoperable. The hub 120 bypasses ~~the port 112~~through 112 the port that has Node 3 connected to it and maintains an operable loop 112, 101, 102, 103, 113, 104, 106, 105, 114, 107, 108, 115, 109, 110 with the remaining devices 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96.